



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jennifer Doettling

jdoettling@peninsulahabitat.org

(650) 568-7335 direct

(650) 430-4248 cell

PENINSULA HABITAT REDWOOD CITY PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

Construction Begins On Eight New Affordable Ownership Townhomes on Lincoln Avenue

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., February 21, 2008 – Peninsula Habitat for Humanity announced today that construction of its newest affordable housing project for very low-income families is now underway in Redwood City, following final building approvals from the city. The project is made possible in part through a substantial land donation from the city, as well as a \$195,000 grant from the State of California as the result of Proposition 46 funding for low-income housing.

“We are so happy to be building again in Redwood City,” said Mary Boughton, Executive Director of Peninsula Habitat for Humanity. “After a number of years building in north San Mateo County (Daly City, South San Francisco and Brisbane), this is our first project in the south county since 2003. It’s also familiar territory for us since we have other Peninsula Habitat homes in Redwood City on Rolison Road and Hope Court. The city has been a great partner.”

When the new project is completed in 2009, Peninsula Habitat will have a total of 51 affordable ownership homes in Redwood City, demonstrating its growing commitment to transit-oriented high-density building. The new site on Lincoln Avenue is adjacent to El Camino Real in the transit corridor, conveniently located less than a mile from downtown Redwood City and within walking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, schools and public transportation.

The Lincoln Avenue project includes seven three-bedroom units and one two-bedroom, wheelchair-accessible unit, all with two-car garages. Each home will employ “green” building principles and integrate solar electric panels into the roof to generate renewable electric energy. The development will also feature a common area including benches and a barbecue pit for all residents.

Peninsula Habitat’s family selection process is extensive. Prospective homeowners must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) income guidelines, have good credit, be able to make mortgage payments for 30 years, and be willing to contribute 500 hours of “sweat equity” to help build their homes. They purchase their homes with no down payment and a zero-interest mortgage provided by Peninsula Habitat, structured not to exceed one-third of their monthly income.

“Our family has been waiting for this moment for a long time,” said Nabil Abdel-Malek, candidate homeowner. “Since we arrived in Redwood City, it was our dream to have a home here. We have our jobs here, and our relatives and friends. But it was impossible to own a home in this

area with our income, even with special programs for first-time home buyers. Our only chance to own a home here is through Peninsula Habitat for Humanity.”

Founded in 1989, Peninsula Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. By partnering with families in need, along with community volunteers and donors, Peninsula Habitat builds affordable ownership homes for very low-income families in San Mateo County – offering them a hand up, not a handout. In 18 years, the agency has worked with more than 40,000 volunteers and community donors to empower more than 110 families to become homeowners.

###